(c) and (d) Our Director General of Military Operations (DGMOs) has raised the issue with his Pakistan counterpart and lodged strong protest. The Pakistan DGMO has however denied the complicity of their troops in opening fire in all the cases but has reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to uphold the ceasefire.

Steps taken to check LoC ceasefire agreement

I1582.SHRI DHARAM PALSABHARWAL:

SHRIMATI MAYA SINGH:

SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the cease fire agreement has been contravened by the recent firings made by the Pakistani army along the Jammu and Kashmir area;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the army General has talked to the Pakistani army officers;

(d) if so, the results thereof; and

(e) the steps taken to check the contravention of ceasefire agreement in future?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) There have been four cases of firing across the Line of Control (LoC) once in Novermber, 2004 twice in January, 2005 and once in February, 2005 in Palanwala, Poonch and Rajouri sectors in recent times.

(c) to (e) Director General of Military Operations (DGMOs) has raised the issue with his Pakistan counterpart and lodged strong protest against these incidents. The Pakistan DGMO has denied the complicity of their troops in opening fire in all the cases but has reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to uphold the ceasefire. They have also assured that all possible steps will be taken to prevent any violation of ceasefire.

Transfer of maintenance responsibility of commercial complexes

1583. SHRI S.P.M. SYED KHAN: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry has decided to transfer the responsibility of maintenance of the commercial complexes from Defence Estates to service Headquarters;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.